

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 31, 1976

2:00 o'clock p.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY,
Chairman.

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building,
400 Royal Street, Room 102
New Orleans, Louisiana

Helen R. Dietrich,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.

Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 2:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, August 31, 1976, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, Room 102, New Orleans Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding. . .

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman
 HARVEY C. LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman
 MARC DUPUY, JR., Member
 JERRY JONES, Member
 JEAN LAPEYRE, Member
 JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member
 DONALD F. WILLE, Member.
 J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

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A G E N D A

1. . Approval of minutes of June 15 and July 13, (5)
 1976 meetings.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Kitchen and Ostarly, Inc. has requested (6)



renewal of their permit expiring
September 30, 1976 to remove fill
material from the Mississippi River

3. Mr. Sidney F. Diez has requested renewal of (7)
permit to remove fill material from the
Amite River approximately 3/4 mile
west of Port Vincent Bridge, Ascension
Parish, Louisiana.
4. Louisiana Materials Co., Inc. has requested (9)
a permit to dredge sand, gravel and/or
fill material from the Mississippi
River at Miles Post 177 through 181
AHP (Point Darrow).
5. Mr. Nathaniel Massi has requested a permit (11)
to dredge fill material from the
Mississippi River, at Mile 134.4 AHP,
St. John Parish, Louisiana.
6. T. L. James & Company, Inc. has requested a (13)
renewal permit to remove sand fill from
the Mississippi River between Mile
87.35 and Mile 88.17 near Meraux, St.
Bernard Parish, Louisiana.
7. Marshland Dredging Company, Inc. has (14)



requested an extension of their permit for another year to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 229.6 and 230.3 AHP.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

8. Setting of the 1976-77 duck and goose seasons (39)
and bag limits.
9. Authorize quail field trial permits on Wild- (36)
life Management Areas.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

10. Request from State Mineral Board to advertise (16)
480 acres of land adjoining the north
side of State Lease 2039 on Rockefeller
Refuge for mineral exploration.
11. Acceptance of donation of camp by Mr. Wilson (18)
S. Shirley, Jr. on Salvador Wildlife
Management Area.

MR. JOE HERRING

12. Acceptance of boat ramp constructed by State (21)
Department of Public Works on Pearl
River Wildlife Management Area.
13. Consider request for Northeast Louisiana (23)
Coon Hunters Association.



14. Pipeline request, Saline Wildlife Management Area, LaSalle Parish. (26)

15. Proposed levee realignment Louisiana Delta Farms, Saline Wildlife Management Area. (29)

OTHER BUSINESS

16. Set date for September meeting. (74)

Note:

The following items of business not on the printed agenda were also considered.

Resolution re future concurrent goose and duck seasons. (53; 62)

Recognition of Mr. Ernest Eldred and his work with regard to State Wildlife Refuge. (64)

Discussion of closing hours, waterfowl hunt- on Wildlife Management Areas. (66)

Mitigated lands, Red River Backwater Project, acquisition of; also status of leases thereon. (75)

Petition for regulated alligator season in Parishes other than Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion. (81)

Resolution of lease and crop problem re (87)



certain portion of litigated land in
Saline Wildlife Management Area.

Floating duck blinds, Saline and Larto
Lakes. (93)

Report on leg-hold trap situation in Ohio. (96)

Discussion of crab trap problem. (100)

Adjournment. (110)

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CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: The first
thing on our agenda today is approval of the
minutes of the meetings of June 15 and July 13.
Do I have a motion for approval of the minutes
of June 15 and July 13 meetings?

MR. DONALD F. WILLE: I so move.

MR. HARVEY C. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and
seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have six items today. Most of them are routine permits in the Mississippi River or for fill material.

The first one is a renewal of a permit now in existence for Kitchen and Ostarly in the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish at Mile 105.3. This permit has been in effect for over a year and I would recommend that it be continued.

MR. WILLE: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have a motion, do I have a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: Second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.



(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to KITCHEN AND OSTARLY, INC. to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 105.3 in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from September 30, 1976 to September 30, 1977 at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item is a request for renewal of a permit we have issued to Mr. Sidney Diez for the removal of fill material in an area near Port Vincent in the Amite River.

This permit has been in effect, it has caused no problems, it meets all the requirements of the Commission, and we recommend that it be continued.



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. MARC DUPUY, JR.: I move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to SIDNEY F. DIEZ to remove fill material from the Amite River approximately 3/4 mile west of Port Vincent Bridge, Ascension Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from August 31, 1976 to August 31,



1977 at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item is a request by Louisiana Materials Co., Inc. for a permit to dredge for sand, gravel and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile Post 177 through 181 AHP.

We have examined this permit and it meets the requirements set forth by the Commission. It will have no effect on the ecosystem. We recommend that it be granted for a period of one year at a rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: Does the permit specify for a different royalty?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is correct. We issue a permit for sand, gravel or fill material, and fill material is a minimum amount. If they do find gravel or sand in the dredged area, then we have an appropriate royalty for each one, and these are accounted for and audited by our people.

MR. DUPUY: And that is spelled out in --



THE CHAIRMAN: That's right. On each monthly report we get the appropriate production figure, and it is all spelled out in each permit.

MR. DUPUY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. LUTTRELL: One other question. Dr. St. Amant, all of these, regardless, are for just one year. We don't have any of these that are for longer than one year any more, do we? Except those already in existence?

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Luttrell, there may be one or two still extant that were issued before the Commission's most recent position on this, that went for five years, but as they terminate we go to one year.

MR. LUTTRELL: No new ones, that's what I was talking about.

DR. ST. AMANT: That's correct.

MR. LUTTRELL: Under no conditions, no new ones.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, that's up to the Commission. As far as I know --

MR. LUTTRELL: But as it goes now.



DR. ST. AMANT: That is correct.

MR. LUTTRELL: Thank you. I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to LOUISIANA MATERIALS CO., INC. to remove sand, gravel and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile Posts 177 through 181 AHP (Point Darrow) for a period of one year from August 31, 1976 to August 31, 1977.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next one is a request



for permit to dredge for fill material from the Mississippi River by a Mr. Massi at 134.4 Miles AHP.

This is a similar permit. We have examined it and it meets all the requirements set forth by the Commission. We recommend it be granted for a period of one year at the appropriate royalty of five cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant per-



mission to MR. NATHANIEL MASSI to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 134.4 AHP, St. John Parish, Louisiana, for the period of August 31, 1976 to August 31, 1977 for a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ensminger.

DR. ST. AMANT: Wait a minute, we have two more.

MR. LUTTRELL: Two more.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry.

DR. ST. AMANT: T. L. James & Company has a request for renewal of an existing permit to remove sand/fill from the Mississippi River between Miles 87.35 and 88.17.

This has been in effect and operated properly. We would recommend that it be issued.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson,



seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to T. L. JAMES & COMPANY, INC.
to remove fill material from the
Mississippi River between Miles 87.35
AHP and Mile 88.17 AHP near Meraux, St.
Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for a
period of one year from August 31,
1976 to August 31, 1977 at a royalty
rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The final one is
Marshland Dredging Company, Inc., requesting an
extension or renewal of their permit for another
year to remove fill material from the Mississippi



River in the vicinity of Mile 229.6 to 230.3 AHP.

This permit has been operated appropriately and we would recommend that it be continued.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to MARSHLAND DREDGING COMPANY, INC. to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 229.6 and 230.3 AHP for a period of one year from August 31,



1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Ensminger. Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, I have two items for your consideration. The first is a request from the State Mineral Board for your approval for the Mineral Board to advertise 480 acres of land on Rockefeller for additional leasing.

This tract of land adjoins one of Superior Oil Company's existing leases on the north and has been nominated by Superior Oil Company. Since it is adjacent to existing mineral activity, I would recommend that this be approved for the State Mineral Board to receive mineral leases.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?



(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received notice from the State Mineral
Board that an application has been
filed for a 480-acre tract to be
advertised for competitive bids on
the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, this tract is
adjacent to State Lease 2039,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
authorize the State Mineral Board
to advertise for competitive bids
a 480-acre tract located on the
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in
Cameron Parish adjacent to the
northern boundary on State Lease



2039, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item on the agenda for your consideration is an offer by Mr. Wilson Shirley to donate to the Commission a camp that he has that is located on our Salvador Wildlife Management Area.

We purchased the Salvador tract in October of 1968 and at the time that we purchased the area Mr. Shirley had an existing lease with Humble Oil and Refining Company who owned the property at that time, and that lease was for a ten-year period. Mr. Shirley has not used the camp for the last couple of years or so and at this time he would like to donate it to the Commission. Since this would terminate his existing lease on the area, I would suggest that the Commission accept his offer of donation and accept the camp and terminate his existing lease on the area.



MR. DUPUY: How many acres are we talking about?

MR. ENSMINGER: Pardon me.

MR. DUPUY: The acreage in the lease, that he has under lease.

MR. ENSMINGER: There are two acres of land. There is a two-acre campsite lease that he has that was negotiated before the Commission purchased the property, and this would terminate the campsite lease and we would receive the camp in the donation.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I will move it.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission purchased
the Salvador Wildlife Management Area
in 1968 from Humble Oil and Refining
Company, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson S. Shirley,
Jr., New Orleans, Louisiana has an
existing two-acre campsite lease which
terminates in 1986, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shirley has offered
to donate his camp and lease to the
Commission, and

WHEREAS, this lease and camp
are valued at \$3,000.00,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby accept
the donation of Mr. Wilson S. Shirley,
Jr. of his rights and ownership to the
two-acre campsite, hunting lease and
camp with all improvements located



on the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission in St. Charles Parish, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ensminger. Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item we have on the agenda, the State Department of Public Works has notified us that they have completed the boat launching ramp and parking area on the West Pearl River at Davis Landing, which is on our Pearl River Wildlife Management Area.

I would like to recommend to the Commission at this time that we accept this, since they are an engineering agency and we take their recommendations to accept the boat ramp.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LAPEYRE: I will so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre,
seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the State Department
of Public Works has notified the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission that Hoover Construction
Company, Inc., Ponchatoula, Louisiana,
contractor for construction of a boat
ramp access channel and parking area
on West Pearl River at Davis Landing,
St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana has
completed their work, and

WHEREAS, this project was
under contract with the Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission,
dated August 30, 1974, and



WHEREAS, the State Department of Public Works acts as the engineering agency for the Commission in such projects,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept this project under Contract No. 6719 on our Pearl River Wildlife Management Area.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have is a request from Mr. Riley Laffoon, Monroe, Louisiana, who is connected with the United Kennel Club which is a coon-hunting organization, and they have made a request to the Commission that they be able to hold a coon field trial on our Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area on October 9. It will be for one night only.

This organization did try to schedule this event in the normal time that our coon season, which is a special one on Russell Sage, is held, but they were unable to get the dates approved by the United Kennel Club, so they have asked if we could let them use it on October 9. We have



checked back with our personnel up there and we have no reason to turn them down. This would kind of work in conjunction with other types of field trials we permit people to have. They will not be using guns on the area or anything; it will just be in braces of four dogs each time; so I would like to recommend that we go ahead and let these people have that trial the one night.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Herring, you might bring out that because it is on a wildlife management area it is necessary for permission because the coon season and the outlaw quadruped can be hunted at any time, and the reason for the special date is because it is a wildlife management area.

MR. HERRING: Thank you for bringing that out.

MR. LUTTRELL: Also, Joe, it is absolutely necessary to get permission to carry a dog on a wildlife management area.

MR. HERRING: Right, that is why they asked for special permission.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy.



MR. LUTTRELL: I second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.
All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Mr. Riley Laffoon,
representing the United Kennel Club, has
requested the use of the Russell Sage
Wildlife Management Area for one night,
October 9, 1976 for a license raccoon hunt
trial, and

WHEREAS, the United Kennel
Club has a reputable hunting organiza-
tion, and

WHEREAS, this organization
was unable to schedule this event
during the regular hunting period
on Russell Sage Wildlife Management



Area, and

WHEREAS, no guns will be used on the area during this field trial and there should be no interference with other activities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission grant the United Kennel Club through Mr. Riley Laffoon their request to hold the field trial on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area for one night, October 9, 1976, for permits for this will be issued through the District II office.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item is a request from Mr. Hood Goldsberry, pertaining to a saltwater disposal line on our Saline Wildlife Management Area.

What they are requesting is that they can make a 5,300-foot extension onto one of their salt lines there and take it, following one of our roads there, which would be Highway 28 and also the Sandy Bayou Road and keep it off our area.



We feel like giving them a permit to carry this salt water disposal line in that area would more or less insure us against any breakage that we might have on our Saline Wildlife Management Area.

Also in making this line through there they have agreed to bury it to a depth of 30 inches which we would request and also in charging them we have the flat rate that we would be charging, \$10 per linear rod for this distance there, which would be a total cost of \$3,210 that they would pay. Since this would be a little protection on our area, I would recommend to the Commission then that we permit them to put this salt water disposal line along this right-of-way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)



Hearing none, so ordered.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has received a request from Mr. Hood Goldsberry to extend an existing salt water disposal line on Saline Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this proposed extension involved a 12-foot right-of-way for approximately 5,300 feet located in Sections 1 and 2, Township 5 North, Range 3 East, and

WHEREAS, installation of this salt water disposal line will be confined to the Louisiana Highway 28 right-of-way and the Sandy Bayou right-of-way, and

WHEREAS, this installation will consist of a two-inch high pressure plastic line buried to a depth of 30 inches for the described distance, and

WHEREAS, our personnel have



checked this and feel that such an installation will provide additional protection against salt water damage to our property,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this request be approved with the following stipulations:

1. The pipeline right-of-way will be confined to the Highway 28 right-of-way and the Sandy Bayou Road right-of-way;
2. That the line be buried to a depth of 30 inches for the described distance;
3. That Hood Goldsberry be charged at the rate of \$10.00 per linear rod for a total cost of \$3,210.00.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next request is from Mr. Haigh of the Louisiana Delta Plantation, who plans to revamp their levee system adjacent to our Saline Wildlife Management Area.

This would be on the east side of our Saline Wildlife Management Area and on the west



side of the Delta Plantation. At this time there are two areas, which we showed on a map this morning, where they have an indentation on his property and do not follow the property line straight through the sections there.

What they would like to do is come back and straighten this out, but in doing this they would have to block off Duck Bayou, which comes into his property there, temporarily, which would be on our property. They would have to put the levee on our property and block it off temporarily to drain Duck Bayou Lake so that they could get their equipment in there to complete this levee.

Actually, this would kind of help us in getting the boundary line straight there instead of having this indentation because people who would be thinking they were on the wildlife management area at this time could be on his property.

Along with that then, they have down in Section 17, it was brought out this morning that there is a corner down there that is not drained properly, and we would ask them at the same time along with this permit that they make provisions



to drain this property.

Also, that the Louisiana Delta agrees to provide for the establishment of monumented section corners on the levee so that we can get the proper description there, and that permission be granted for long-term public use on the all-weather access road which he will have constructed on the east side of his property. This will make access to Youngblood Boat Ramp, which we have built in the past there, which we don't have good access to now because of some of the work he has done. He will agree to open this up for public use on this.

So, with this in mind then, I would recommend to the Commission that we do grant him permission to block this one bayou off temporarily; he said it would take about 21 days to actually do the work.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the. -- Marc, go ahead.

MR. DUPUY: Would you provide in that that they also provide the drainage relief problem to that --



MR. HERRING: I brought that out first; that was the first item I mentioned.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you. I will move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy. Do we have a second on this?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Louisiana Delta Plantation has plans of revamping their levee system adjacent to the Saline Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, under this proposed plan the levee will be raised to a 60.0 m.s.l., and it will be straightened at points where original alignment



skirted sump areas of Indigo Bayou in Section 9 and Duck Bayou in Section 4, and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish this alignment it will be necessary for Louisiana Delta to cut their levees at the above points and allow waters presently ponded at the base of their levees to drain off into their interior drainage system, and

WHEREAS, to effect this drainage of ponded waters at Duck Bayou, it will be necessary to place a temporary fill in Duck Bayou to preclude the drainage of Saline Bayou through the cut in the levee, and

WHEREAS, this fill will be placed approximately one-quarter of a mile northwest of the management area line in the northeast quarter of Section 5, at a point below the fork in Duck Bayou where an old fill



was once located, and

WHEREAS, after the completion of this levee alignment, this temporary fill will be removed,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission permit Louisiana Delta Plantation through Mr. Haigh to accomplish this work provided that:

1. None of the above work will affect the water level in Saline Bayou.
2. That temporary fill be removed upon completion of levee work.
3. That permission be granted for the long term use of the all-weather access road to be constructed by Louisiana Delta to the boat ramp at Youngblood Landing.
4. That Louisiana Delta agrees to provide for the establishment of monumented section corners



along the levee running from Old Saline Bayou in Section 18 to the Northwest corner of Section 3 where the levee corners near Larto Lake. These lines should be re-established at the time the above project is begun to negate any possibility of additional Commission-owned lands being disturbed.

5. All water trapped in Section 17 as a result of levee construction be drained and appropriate measures be taken to prevent recurrence of this situation.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. LUTTRELL: I don't know whether, I guess this would come under Other Business. I have something to bring up under Other Business, please, when you get to it.

MR. THOMPSON: We haven't set the duck season yet.



MR. LUTTRELL: I know; after the duck season.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, we have two items on the agenda. I will take up the request that we have from some of the field trial associations in Louisiana who want to conduct field trials with pointing dogs on some of the Commission's Wildlife Management Areas.

We would like to recommend that you authorize the Director to issue permits to recognized field trial associations to go ahead and conduct their trials on the Game Management Areas subject to about three or four conditions. One, that no permits would be issued for field trials to be conducted during the open turkey season or during the managed deer hunts, during the quail nesting season from April 1 to September 30, nor would they be allowed to do any shooting during the course of those field trials, which would be held outside of the regular open quail season.

MR. LUTTRELL: You exclude the turkey season?



MR. YANCEY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones, you have heard the recommendation. Would you like to make a motion on that?

MR. JONES: Yes, I would.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. DUPUY: You are going to notify the public with regard to what management areas are going to be involved in these field trial areas?

MR. YANCEY: Yes, we will get out some sort of news story to the field trial associations on just how this system will be operated.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)



WHEREAS, requests to hold field trials on wildlife management areas are being received, due primarily to the establishment of a Quail Development Area on Fork Polk Wildlife Management Area, and an increase in public interest, and

WHEREAS, action on the part of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is required to grant permission for field trials on wildlife management areas, and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to establish an efficient permit system in order that this activity may be properly regulated and controlled, and

WHEREAS, no official vehicle for making an application or receiving a permit and no written rules governing field trials on wildlife management areas exist,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and



Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize its director to grant permission for field trials to be held on wildlife management areas by recognized field trial associations using a procedure of written applications and permits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that field trials on wildlife management areas will not be allowed during open turkey season, during the quail nesting season (April 1 - September 30), or during managed deer hunts. Neither will permits be issued that would allow the shooting of quail, pen-raised or otherwise, during the closed season for the hunting of quail.

MR. YANCEY: Secondly, we received the waterfowl hunting regulations this morning from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and it is necessary at this time that the Commission set the dates of the 1976-77 hunting season on ducks, coots and geese.



Now I might preface this by saying that we are optimistic about having a good duck season in Louisiana this fall and winter. Surveys were made up in Canada by Bateman, Soileau and others of the Commission. Also we heard directly the reports from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Denver meeting on what the status of the fall flight would be. Further, we attended the Mississippi Flyway Council meeting in Duluth, Minnesota and the regulations meetings over in Washington in early August.

Based on everything we have seen and heard, we are optimistic about a good duck season. Probably not as good as last year, because last year was one of those years that doesn't come along very often. That was just an outstanding year, but this year's season is certainly going to be above average.

Here in Louisiana we are somewhat concerned about the drought condition that exists, the low water conditions that exist down in the marsh country, in the Atchafalaya Basin and some of the upland bottomland hardwood areas. The



drought that we had in the marshes resulted in heavy production of important waterfowl food plants. If we get some rainfall, get water into this millet and panicum that we have in abundance in the marshes now, it is certain to stop a lot of the ducks that would ordinarily go on further south to winter, and it is going to mean a good duck season. We have got the feed; if we can get the water to go with it, I think we are set for a good duck season.

Now the regulations that we have as offered by Fish and Wildlife Service, the duck season framework will be October 1 to January 20. In the eastern zone of Louisiana we are offered 50 days of hunting and in the western zone 55 days of duck hunting. This solid black line (indicating on map), running from north to south through the state, separates the two zones.

Last year we had this Wednesday noon opening as an option. We do not have that this year. We can open on Saturdays or whenever the Commission so chooses.

Again we are offered a duck season where



we can split it into two segments without penalty. Shooting hours, a half hour before sunrise to sunset. Here again the Fish and Wildlife Service has been served with a lawsuit against allowing pre-sunrise hunting.

The options on the bag limit are that the Commission can elect a conventional bag of five ducks daily, of which not more than three could be mallards and black ducks, or a point system bag limit that would allow much better bag limit possibilities for the hunters, with 10-point birds, including pintails, gadwalls, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, shovelers, and some of the mergansers. 25-point ducks would include drake mallards, mottled ducks, widgeon, ring-necked ducks, fulvous tree-ducks. 70-point ducks would include hen mallards, woodducks and black ducks and hooded mergansers.

Based on our analysis, that is probably the best bag limit that has been offered to the hunters in this state in about 25 to 30 years. This year if a hunter takes his three drake mallards first, then he can take another mallard and



he would be allowed four mallards in the bag and for several years, as we all know, we have had mallard limits of two and three and what-have-you.

The bag limits on coots would be 15 daily and 30 in possession.

Now the goose season, the framework there is October 1 to February 14, total number of hunting days, 70 days. We can't split the hunting days like we can on ducks. We have got to run the goose season statewide at the same time during the fall and winter.

Bag limits on geese would be five daily and five in possession, of which no more than two could be whitefronts, and the season will continue to be closed on Canada geese.

I am going to call on Hugh Bateman to give you the recommendations from the biologists on the duck season dates..

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: We have come up with some recommendations for the duck season for this coming year, and of course the duck and goose season will run together.

In the west zone we have duck season



dates that begin on November 6, that is a Saturday, through November 28, which is a Sunday. That is a total of 23 days. We have a split season in the west zone. The second portion then will begin on December 11, which is a Saturday, and will run through January 11, which is a Tuesday, for 32 days. That is a total of 55 days in the west zone.

In the east zone we are recommending that the season begin on November 20, which is a Saturday, and run through December 5, which is a Sunday, for 16 days; also a split season in the east zone, with the second portion beginning December 18, which is a Saturday, and running through January 20, which is a Thursday, 34 days, which is a total of 50 days.

On geese, and of course your coots will run concurrent with the duck season, those groups of dates that I just mentioned, the goose season will open, we are recommending that the goose season open November 6, which is a Saturday, and run through November 28, which is a Sunday, for 23 days; a split season on geese with the second season opening December 11, which is a Saturday,



and running through January 26, which is a Wednesday, for 47 days, which is a total goose season of 70 days.

We are also recommending another special scaup season be offered in Louisiana in that west zone, the same areas described last year in the pamphlet, and that would limit this because it has to occur after the regular duck season is ended. The season in the east zone, if it ends on January 20, we would then recommend that there be 11 days of special scaup hunting allowed in those areas described last year from January 21 through January 31. That would be an 11-day special scaup season.

We are also recommending of course that the point system be adopted this year in Louisiana. Last year the low-point category birds that Mr. Yancey read off to you and that you have seen already on the chart this morning made up 60 percent of the total birds bagged in Louisiana. The medium-point category birds made up about 20 percent and the high-point category birds made up about 20 percent. So, we think, looking at the



information that we have available to us, together with the success that we think we had last year, we are recommending these dates for this coming year.

MR. YANCEY: I would also like to call on Larry Soileau -- is Larry here? -- to give you a rundown on the kill figures from last year's waterfowl hunting season, which was one of the most outstanding we have ever had in the state and I think the best received of any duck season dates that we have had in many, many years.

MR. LARRY SOILEAU: Basically last year we had the same hunting season that we are recommending this year. We had split seasons in both zones. The harvest was split approximately equally between the east and west zone with one million ducks being killed in each of the two zones.

For the purposes of this survey we divided the state, each zone, into a coastal area and an upland area, and if you will look at the map the lower figure in black is the total number and in the upland in the west zone you had 217,000



ducks and in the lower coastal zone, west zone, you had 828,000, and totally that equals to one million.

The upper figure in green is the kill which occurred during the first segment of the split and that in red, the second number, is the kill which occurred during the second segment of the split. In the east zone you also had a million ducks, with the upland area killing 666,000 and the lower coastal zone killing 406,000.

We estimate approximately 86,000 waterfowl hunters from this survey, using a mail questionnaire to people who purchased resident hunting licenses from the prior year. Approximately 10,000 questionnaires were mailed out and we had a return of about 70 percent.

As you recall, the season last year is exactly what was offered this year with one exception. We had 50 days in the east zone, 55 in the west zone, except that we were required to open on Wednesday noon. There was one exception; in the west zone November 1 was a Saturday and we were allowed to open Saturday last year.



The harvest last year was probably the highest we have had since 1970, being 2.1 million ducks, which was an excellent season.

That's about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Soileau.

Mr. Yancey, do you want to say anything else before all hell breaks loose?

MR. YANCEY: Well, just one word. We had some problems with these goose season dates, mainly because there is no way you can stretch 70 days to cover all the open duck season dates in both zones. If you will note, this will mean the goose season will open about two weeks before the duck season does in the eastern zone and it will close in that first segment several days before the duck season ends, so we had some problems with that.

However, in Louisiana about 75 to 80 percent of the geese are killed in the western zone, about 25 percent in the eastern zone. They have no whitefronted geese in the eastern zone. They are all in the west. That is basically the problem we had there and it is possible next year



maybe we can put in a request and get the authority to split the goose season dates in the state. We can give it a try, it would be worth it.

MR. WILLE: Dick, we discussed this a little bit earlier, but I think when we get ready to set this goose season that we come up with a resolution at that time to the Department of Interior, asking that we do divide the goose the same as we have the duck.

MR. YANCEY: I think it would be very desirable that we try to get that done.

MR. LUTTRELL: Dick, we don't recognize the right of the minority, anyway, do we?

MR. YANCEY: I will take the Fifth Amendment on that! (Laughter)

MR. LUTTRELL: I was preparing for the next statement.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of getting the discussion under way, I would like to move that we go with the point system and the recommendations of the biologists with regard to the seasons. The staff, the entire staff.

MR. LUTTRELL: Has it been seconded?



THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir.

MR. LUTTRELL: As soon as it is seconded I want to amend it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It might be a while before somebody seconds it. Do I hear a second on Mr. Dupuy's motion?

MR. THOMPSON: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Thompson.

MR. LUTTRELL: I want to amend it.

MR. WILLE: I want to know what the motion was.

THE CHAIRMAN: You ought to listen! To go along with the biologists' and the staff's recommendations.

MR. LUTTRELL: Not staff, biologists.

MR. WILLE: Are you talking about seasons and points or what?

MR. THOMPSON: Season and points.

MR. DUPUY: Season and points.

MR. WILLE: I haven't heard any discussion from the floor, from these people that were here earlier. Are we going to listen to that first or are we --



THE CHAIRMAN: We listened to them one time this morning.

MR. YANCEY: There may be someone here.

MR. WILLE: There might be someone else here that might want to be heard, Mr. Chairman, and I think we should at least extend that courtesy.

THE CHAIRMAN: For God's sake, please do. If I have overlooked somebody, I didn't intend to.

MR. THOMPSON: Do you want me to withdraw my second? I will.

MR. WILLE: No, sir, I don't want you to do a thing, Mr. Thompson, except sit there and look smart.

MR. THOMPSON: I am not going to do that!

MR. WILLE: I would like to know if there is anybody here that has not been heard or that would like to say anything in regards to the setting of the seasons before we go ahead and make the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. McGOVERN: I had understood we would come back on the tape. I am President of Louisiana



Wildlife Federation. On behalf of the Federation, the organized portion, we have given you our resolutions adopted at our annual congress. Basically, we would want a season similar to last season, at least as good as last season on dates, and bag limits.

With reference to the goose season, we have the continuing problem. The resolution that passed was that the goose season be as late as possible, hopefully that we would get a seven rather than a five bag limit, and a double bag limit rather than five and five would be seven and 14, or five and ten.

That basically is the position of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's official resolution. Now I understand there is some opposition to that, and since we can't split the goose season by zones we have a problem of not wanting to lose our 70-day goose season, and the suggestion that it be concurrent with the duck season means that we would then be concurrent with and we would end up with a 50 or 55-day goose season, which we have spent many years getting to a 70-day season.



So, there is a problem there. That's our position. We appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

MR. WILLE: I appreciate that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. WILLE: The only amendment, if an amendment is in order to the motion, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to propose is that we get a resolution drawn up by Mr. Yancey so that we can try to maintain our 70-day goose season without loosing it but yet to run concurrently, as close as possible, by dividing the goose season into an east-west zone, the same way as our duck season is, and still maintain our 70 days, which will create a few enforcement problems.

I think by amendment I would like to include a resolution by the Commission to the Department of Interior that it be taken into consideration that the goose season be divided into an east-west zone so that they could be run concurrent with the duck season.

Is that in order, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: I guess so. Second by



Mr. Thompson. Any objection? All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is carried.

MR. DUPUY: All right, I will make my motion again then.

MR. WILLE: I heard the motion, Marc.

MR. DUPUY: O. K.

MR. WILLE: I was kidding before.

MR. DUPUY: For the record I will move that we adopt the point system and that we accept the recommendations of the staff with regard to the setting of the dates of the east and west zones and the goose season.

MR. WILLE: Can we go over these dates again just one more time?

THE CHAIRMAN: West zone, November 6 to November 28 and December 11 to January 11.

MR. WILLE: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: Eastern zone, November 20 to December 5, December 18 to January 20.

MR. WILLE: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: On the goose season,



November 6 to November 28, December 11 to January 26. Five daily and possession, two whitefronted, Canada geese closed.

MR. WILLE: And the special scaup season.

MR. DUPUY: And the special scaup season included.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is Mr. Dupuy's motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: Now I have an amendment to the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second on the motion?

MR. THOMPSON: I seconded.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Thompson. You have an amendment?

MR. WILLE: I have one amendment and you have got the second amendment, Mr. Luttrell.

MR. LUTTRELL: Well, since your amendment didn't pertain to the seasons and bag limits really it should be a motion all itself. We have passed that motion. It carried.

MR. WILLE: O. K., fine.

MR. THOMPSON: He didn't get a second so



that fell by the wayside.

MR. WILLE: My motion fell by the --

THE CHAIRMAN: No, you had a motion, not an amendment.

MR. WILLE: All right. O. K., thank you, sir. I appreciate that.

MR. LUTTRELL: Are you ready for my amendment?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, go ahead.

MR. LUTTRELL: I want to amend Mr. Dupuy's motion to read that the duck season for the eastern zone shall start on November 20 and proceed through December 5, shall reopen on December 18 and proceed through January 16.

MR. DUPUY: Should start December 9.

MR. LUTTRELL: All right, December 9. November 20 - December 9, December 18 - January 16.

I would like to state in defense of that that our sister state of Arkansas has just officially set their season at November 20 through January 11, December 18 through January 14.

Gentlemen, the four days doesn't seem to be a whole lot but the difference between



January 16 and January 20 psychologically is a terrific problem in the state of Louisiana, and I can't go with the other because I know of this problem. I have had calls from all over the state.

I don't know but what my friend over here, Mr. Dipperson (phonetic spelling), after he and I talked, might would agree to going back the four days. There is a terrific problem and I hope you can see fit to go from November 20 to December 9 and December 18 to January 16.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Luttrell, is this psychologically going to affect the ducks or the people?

MR. LUTTRELL: The people.

MR. WILLE: O. K., I just wanted to make that clear.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the amendment.

MR. LUTTRELL: You have got to get a second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second to Mr. Luttrell's amendment.

MR. JONES: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Jones.
Is there any discussion?

(No response)

All in favor, say aye.

MR. LUTTRELL: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed?

IN UNISON: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: The noes have it. Sorry
about that, Mr. Clay.

MR. LUTTRELL: It's on the record,
anyway, and I know I was right. (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will vote the
original motion, Mr. Dupuy's motion. Any dis-
cussion?

(No response)

All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed?

MR. LUTTRELL: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: One opposed.

MR. JONES: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: A little bit tougher
but it still carries. Two opposed.



MR. WILLE: Mr. Clay, if you need any help psychologically, I will be glad to talk to you after the meeting. (Laughter)

MR. LUTTRELL: Oh, I don't need any help; I know I am right!

(The full text of the resolutions is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced the migratory waterfowl hunting regulations for the 1976-77 season, and

WHEREAS, the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is authorized to establish the hunting season dates for ducks, geese and coots within the prescribed federal framework,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following hunting season dates and bag limits for the hunting of migratory waterfowl during the 1976-77 season, and



THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER
 RESOLVED all other federal regulations,
 including shooting hours, prohibitions
 against baiting, prohibitions against
 the use of rifles or shotguns capable
 of holding more than three (3) shells
 and prohibitions against shooting of
 ducks and other waterfowl from motor-
 boats are also adopted.

1976-77 WATERFOWL SEASONS

DUCKS - WEST ZONE (Point System)

November 6 (Saturday) - November 28
 (Sunday) (23 days)

December 11 (Saturday) - January 11
 (Tuesday) (32 days)

55 days

DUCKS - EAST ZONE

November 20 (Saturday) - December 5
 (Sunday) (16 days)

December 18 (Saturday) - January 20
 (Thursday) (34 days)

50 days.

POINT SYSTEM CATEGORIES FOR REGULAR



DUCK SEASON (BOTH ZONES)

100 - Canvasbacks (Closed areas same as last year for canvasback and redhead).

70 - Mallard Hen, Woodduck, Black Duck, Hooded Merganser, Redhead.

25 - Mallard Drake, Mottled Duck, Widgeon, Ring-Necked Duck, All Other Ducks.

10 - Pintail, Gadwall, Green-Winged Teal, Blue-Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, Scaup, Red-Breasted Merganser, American Merganser.

GEESE - STATEWIDE

November 6 (Saturday) - November 28
(Sunday) (23 days)

December 11 (Saturday) - January 26
(Wednesday) (47 days)

70 days.

Five daily and possession; two whitefronted; Canada Geese closed.

SPECIAL SCAUP SEASON

January 21 - January 31 (11 days)
Five daily, ten possession.



WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has the authority to establish different dates for hunting ducks in the eastern and western regions of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, uniform statewide dates must be established for the hunting of geese, thereby resulting in the goose season being opened in one region of the state prior to the opening of the duck season, and

WHEREAS, it would be most beneficial and desirable for the Commission to have the authority to set different goose hunting dates in the eastern and western regions of the state in order that all waterfowl hunting seasons for both ducks and geese could open simultaneously and uniformly which would benefit law enforcement and waterfowl management,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED



that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby go on record as requesting that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorize the Commission to establish different dates for hunting geese in the eastern and western zones of the state as it now has for the establishment of dates for the hunting of ducks in order that the dates for hunting ducks and geese in each region can be established to begin simultaneously and concurrently,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service for his consideration at the time the framework dates are established for the 1977-78 seasons.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, there has been a request to read those dates again, if you will please.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. The western zone



on ducks, November 6, which is a Saturday, to November 28, which is a Sunday, 23 days. December 11, which is a Saturday, to January 11, which is a Tuesday, 32 days, for a total of 55 days.

Eastern zone, November 20, which is a Saturday, to December 5, Sunday, 16 days; December 18 to January 20, 34 days, for a total of 50 days.

Geese statewide, November 6 to November 28, 23 days; December 11 to January 26, 47 days, for a total of 70 days. Give daily and possession two whitefronted, Canada Geese closed.

Special scaup season, January 21 - January 31, 11 days. Five daily, ten possession.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I have something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Put it on me.

MR. JONES: We might have done this already. If we did, we will do it twice; it won't hurt.

In the audience is a man that did a lot of work for the Commission and as a result I think primarily of a lot of his efforts as a lawyer we



would up with the title to the State Wildlife Refuge, and that is Ernie Eldred. Ernie is in the audience and I would like to recognize what he has done for the Commission. There were a lot of other people who did assist him in it but I think he is one of the persons that carried the lawsuit to its ultimate conclusion and we wound up with the title to that, good title to that Refuge, and I would just like to say thank-you to him.

THE CHAIRMAN: Stand up, Mr. Eldred.

(Whereupon, Mr. Eldred stood and was accorded a round of applause by the Commission members.)

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, could I recognize a very good friend of mine who is here today. Mrs. Cook, the person who is responsible for Mr. Cook's good behavior! She is always welcome and we are glad to see her here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Director.

DIRECTOR J. BURTON ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, some three or four meetings ago the Commission took a position



that would close the waterfowl hunting at noon in our Game Management Areas.

We have had a lot of correspondence dealing with this, some people in opposition to closing these Game Management Areas for waterfowl hunting at noon. I think we need to reaffirm the position of the Commission by action today so we can start answering all these letters. It is now being printed in our brochure that we will have noontime stopping of waterfowl hunting and that we need to reaffirm that position in answering all these letters, or some discussion on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I realize that I will probably be outvoted, but I would like to make a motion if it is proper. Maybe I am making it prematurely. Maybe it should be incorporated for our future management of the game management areas, that the last three days, at least the last three days of the season, be opened to all-day hunting on the game management areas.

MR. DUPUY: If it is in proper order, I will second that motion.



MR. ENSMINGER: Is that all of them now? How about the ones like Pass a Loutre, Salvador, Point au Chien, that have been closed at noon ever since they opened?

MR. THOMPSON: Well, all of them.

MR. LUTTRELL: I will oppose that. We are only encouraging people to argue with us every year, year after year. This has been a progressive thing. It is good, we know it is good for the ducks, we know it is good for people, and the Commission has taken a point of view on it in the beginning and I don't see any reason to change it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, maybe we ought to change these bureaucratic things sometimes. I don't know. Anyhow, Mr. Thompson made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. LUTTRELL: And we are in a point of discussion.

MR. DUPUY: Let's hear from Dick Yancey on that, if you will, please. Could we do so?

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick.

MR. YANCEY: What question, Marc?



MR. DUPUY: Dick, with regard to the merits of opening to all-day hunting in the last three days of the season on wildlife management areas.

MR. YANCEY: Well, the principal benefit of limiting hunting to morning hours only is that, you know, your ducks can come in in the afternoon, settle down and rest and they are on hand the following morning.

As we mentioned earlier, heavy gunning pressure moves ducks out to other areas and if you hunt on till sunset in a given area, then you hurt your duck hunting the following morning, and we know that the vast majority of hunters hunt in the morning. But as far as allowing all-day hunting on these woodland wildlife management areas the last two or three days of the season, it wouldn't really make any difference if the ducks were moved out to other areas, because the season is about to close.

I would think that since the pamphlet has already been published for this year, that probably you would want to stick with the regula-



tions you have already decided on and you have published in news releases and pamphlets and what-have-you.

Some of the people that we heard from that wanted to continue with afternoon hunting stated that our neighboring states didn't prohibit hunting on the game management areas during the afternoon, and we checked with Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas and found that those states do shut down their public areas at noon. Over in Texas they shut down at 11 o'clock. Mississippi shuts all theirs down at noon except for one that runs to 4:00 p.m. Arkansas shuts off at noon except this last three days they do allow all-day hunting, but the reason they gave us for closing at noon is the very point that we just brought out, that your ducks stay in an area longer through the hunting season and provide better hunting if you limit your shooting to morning hours only.

Of course, it has been a long practice of the duck clubs throughout these three or four states to limit hunting to morning hours only because by so doing they are able to have better



hunting throughout the season rather than just have one grand shootout the first couple of days of the season. Some of them hunt every other day, some of them shut off at 10 o'clock in the morning, and they have better hunting on through the season.

Of course, they hunt much more lightly than we hunt on the game management areas. We have got large numbers of people and the duck clubs primarily control their hunting so that they will not drive all the ducks out of their marshes and that they will have ducks on hand throughout the season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson, I think we are kind of governed by the Administrative Procedures Act here to go through a long rigamarole of red tape in order to change this thing. I agree with you in principle but it might be better if we did this next year with a little more forethought and go through the correct procedures on it.

MR. DUPUY: May I hear from Mr. Ensminger just a minute, please, with regard to the areas



that we did close in the past?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson, I will be glad to bring that to a vote. You have a motion duly seconded and if you like, we will bring it to a vote now.

MR. THOMPSON: As I see it, because of the Administrative Procedures Act, we would be prohibited by time from incorporating that this year, so my motion would be null and void whether it passed or failed. The main purpose of me bringing it before the Commission, knowing full well this, was so we would be aware of it and take cognizance of it at least for next year.

MR. WILLE: I think you made a good point, Jimmie. You know on previous Commission action we had said we didn't want to change anything that was in the pamphlet because it just adds to the confusion, and I certainly think that it would be in line for next year and I believe it would be a good thing.

MR. DUPUY: I believe you are entirely correct. I will withdraw my second on that, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask though that the



biologists consider two things for next year, and that is with regard to the appropriateness of making the last, say, three or four days or whatever it might be open all day, and secondly, with regard to the necessity of a rest area within the management area if the entire management area is going to be closed at noon. I would like for you to consider and study the possibilities of eliminating the rest areas in the event that we do close the whole area.

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, Marc, at the present time, of course, the refuge division managers at Salvador, Point au Chien and Pass a Loutre which are wildlife management areas primarily for waterfowl, there are by and large not any large amount of other game on them; within these three areas we do not have rest areas. At the present time on Salvador there is an existing private lease which expires in October of 1978 and it was in existence when the Commission bought the property and it will revert back to us in October of '78 -- we bought it in '68.

On Pass a Loutre because of its remote-



ness, we have. Many, many years ago the Commission set aside the area west of South Pass as day-long shooting, and this constitutes some 6,000 acres I would say of that 66,000-acre area on which the public can shoot all day long, and after the first three or four days of the duck season you might as well lock that portion of the game management area off as a hunting area because the birds are driven out of there by excessive afternoon shooting.

Now all of these areas, and I am sure Joe Herring's areas are no different from mine, are managed by one or two people and there is no way, physically, from an enforcement standpoint that you can get out there and police afternoon shooting hours closing at a half-hour after sundown on a 66,000-acre game management area with two enforcement personnel. So, all you are doing is inviting a large number of people who would normally stop shooting at noon to continue to shoot on in the afternoon and shoot beyond shooting hours. I am sure Dave Hall, sitting here in the audience, will mention to you that a large



percentage of the cases made in this New Orleans area, federal waterfowl cases, are made from late shooting, and I think this would be just encouraged by opening up our game management areas in the afternoon.

Of course, the suggestion Mr. Thompson has of the last two or three days of the season being open, this probably wouldn't make any difference as far as overall use of the area is concerned, because the hunting season is over at that time, and certainly there is a lot of merit from that standpoint. But as far as opening up the marsh waterfowl areas for afternoon shooting, I would be opposed to it. I think it would be a poor wildlife management procedure.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Allan.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have about three other items under Other Business. One is to set the date for the September meeting. I would recommend the 27th and 28th of September.

MR. WILLE: September what, Mr. Chairman?

THE CHAIRMAN: The 27th and 28th of



September.

MR. THOMPSON: I want to say one other thing, Mr. Chairman. This morning I was talking with Dick Yancey in reference to the mitigated land, Saline mitigated land by the Corps of Engineers. We were cut off, we didn't finish that and we were going to continue it, so could we continue it at this time, Dick.

MR. YANCEY: O. K. For about eight years the Corps of Engineers has been obligated to buy 12,600 acres of land as mitigation against damages from the Red River backwater project. Finally they are moving ahead with this. They are about to acquire half that acreage in that part of Concordia Parish that lies between the north boundary of the Red River Game Management Area and Patton Lake, and they are also selecting now the other half of that acreage in the same Cocodrie Bayou area immediately north of Patton Lake and east of Cocodrie Bayou.

Now also one of the things that we have been studying here in recent days is a letter that we received from Colonel Galloway in



connection with the installation of this Cocodrie pumping plant. The Corps is obligated to come up with the acquisition of an additional 11,000 acres of land which would be maintained and preserved in bottomland hardwood habitat. A few days ago we received a letter from Colonel Galloway that indicated that they have difficulties in acquiring land, mainly because between the time that a project is authorized by Congress and funded the land is cleared up and it is no longer available for purchase. There is a big time lag between the time when they select a tract to buy and the actual money becoming available to buy the land.

So he is suggesting that in lieu of that practice that they allocate to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission some two million dollars as mitigation against the Cocodrie pumping plant, which would then be used to improve existing wildlife management areas in that area.

We have been wrestling with this thing for several days. We still have not responded to his letter. We don't know that improvements on an existing game management area are adequate



mitigation against the actual loss of clearing and draining of additional acreages of bottomland hardwoods up there. We have checked to determine if this two million dollars could be used for land acquisition and apparently it cannot. If it could be then it would be attractive for us to go ahead and take this and then let the Commission buy the land, put title to the land in the Commission's name and make it up as a game management area.

That is basically where we stand now.

MR. THOMPSON: Dick, I have a question and a statement. I have been made cognizant of this fact simply because I sold a piece of land adjacent to the Three Rivers Game Management Area and I had a real estate dealer in Baton Rouge call me to confirm my sale. He said he was trying to establish price trends in the area, but in conjunction with that, several camp owners who are on the north, around Mound Bayou and that area, have contacted me who are on a -- I don't know whether you say a year-to-year verbal lease or a month-to-month verbal lease; I don't know just which they are on, but they don't have a written



lease any longer. They have had for some 20 or 25 years these written leases but they no longer have this written lease, with the expectation that some of this land would be sold to the federal government for us as mitigated land.

The question that has been brought up by them is that they don't have any official notice but now they have been told that maybe they won't be able to hunt it this year, maybe they won't. Well, I am trying to interpret that they have a lease until the first of the year, if for no reason other than at this late date, which may be another month and a half or so before they could be advised, I don't think that would be quite fair to them, and they do have a verbal lease and they have been there for 20 or 25 years. They want to know what is the position of the Commission, and so would I.

MR. YANCEY: Well, I think any land that would be acquired by the Corps, you know, would immediately then go under a wildlife management area agreement whereby the public then would be allowed to hunt in the area and there would be no



more exclusive hunting leases or fishing leases on that land.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, the question was this, it is probably a legal point, they have a verbal lease, not a written lease, and this can be substantiated through the parties that be, plus the fact that they have had written leases over the past and they have this until the first of the year, I am assuming until the first of the year. It appears to me that they should be allowed to continue their leases until it expires. Now, whether the Corps buys it with these reservations or not, I don't know.

MR. YANCEY: Well, those verbal leases usually don't amount to a great deal. We have bought, you know, a couple of game management areas that have been subject to hunting and fishing leases that were outstanding, recorded and what-have-you, and we have honored those, but in a situation like this I rather doubt that.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, I would disagree with you and I would disagree because a man's word is his bond and that is his contract as far



as I am concerned.

MR. YANCEY: Well, if that land sells, he won't be selling to us, he will be selling to the Corps.

MR. THOMPSON: I understand that but --

MR. YANCEY: And we wouldn't be the ones making the decision I don't think; I think it would be up to the Corps, you know, for the next few months, because it would take time for them to turn this land over either to us or the Fish and Wildlife Service or whoever they are going to turn it over to for management.

MR. THOMPSON: I may be making a mountain out of a molehill simply because I don't think the time element will allow them to acquire this land, transfer it and turn it over to us before this hunting season is over. Two camps that I know have already leased more land adjacent -- what is it, Catfish; or whatever that big island is on the Mississippi River just to the east and north of this land we are speaking of. I forget the name of it. Well, they have leased that so they are not probably going to be without



a hunting area, but it is something we need to clear up or conversation needs to be brought up about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dick. At this time I would like to recognize an old friend of mine, Ray Robertson, retired Captain of the Louisiana State Police, who was with the Troop C Area for a good long time and I have known to be a good and honorable man for a long time. I believe, Captain Robertson, you have something you want to say to us at this time. Would you come up to the podium, please.

CAPTAIN RAY ROBERTSON: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have here about -- I am guessing, I didn't count them -- about 700 names petitioning the proper authorities for a regulated hunting season on alligators. We even have some people present here today who are fur trappers and whose livelihoods are endangered by the overpopulation of alligators.

I have personally gone over quite a bit of this trapping land myself and have seen places that I knew to be very populous with many fur-



bearing animals which is now depleted.

Mr. Norbert Lovell, for one, Mr. Alcide Liner (phonetic spelling), Mr. Alcide Liner has been trapping for 49 years. Liner's Canal was named after him. He is contemplating, not because of disability -- he is still very spry -- he is thinking of not trapping this year because the alligators have eaten up his nutrias. The same for Mr. Norbert Lovell, who has been trapping for 40 years. We have Mr. Freddie Trahan sitting right over here, who is very concerned about his livelihood.

And so, these petitions are presented to you gentlemen, asking you to do what you can to help these folks out. Now I spoke to Congressman Treen's office today and was told that this petition would be instrumental if used by the Commission in bringing about an earlier opening of a legal or a regulated, correction, regulated season on the alligators.

Now there were a few other things that I wanted to bring out and I spoke to some of the gentlemen who are in charge here and they said



they were not ready for them at this time, so I will be very obedient and shut my mouth at this time and I thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ray. We appreciate the help and effort you and your people have put in getting these petitions signed for us. I gave the Director a petition this morning with like 476 names that John Davidson and a group over in Morgan City had gotten up out of St. Mary, Terrebonne and Lafourche. I think basically all the trappers and hunters in that area over there are very much interested in having an alligator season.

As most of you know, I have pushed for it the last two or three years and have apparently talked on deaf ears.

Mr. Director, do you want to say something?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Robertson, what I would like to do is in the name of the Commission accept your petition today and tell you that we will use it as a tool in helping to advance the opening date of the alligator season in your part



of the country. What I am saying is that I will not be acknowledging it to every person that has signed it by a letter. I would like to do it today at this time. O. K.?

I think Allan is here. He could shed a little bit of additional light on this alligator season as he has received word that the people of the Endangered Species Section up there in Washington have received a letter and acknowledged receiving it from Governor Edwards, asking for the extension of the area. Allan got this today since we started, so, Allan, would you bring everybody up to date on it.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Angelle, we might point out to the trappers and interested people here that the Commission at its last regular scheduled session did adopt a resolution requesting that the remainder of the coastal parishes of Louisiana be removed from the endangered category with regard to the American alligator and that these animals be completely delisted in those parishes just as they are in Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion.



Until that is done the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has no jurisdiction over the American alligator. This rests solely with the Department of the Interior as covered by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and until that is done there is nothing that this Commission can do to manage the alligator other than going and removing alligators that are a threat to human life.

Now we have received a reply to Governor Edwards' petition. It was dated August 18 and signed by Mr. Nat Reed, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, pointing out that they had received the petition, that it was being considered, and requesting all of the biological data that our Commission has to be presented to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service so that a determination could be made.

We have been in correspondence with Senator Johnson's office; Mr. Clausen, his aide, has talked to us numerous times with regard to this proposal since we made it, and the indications are that the Fish and Wildlife Service are going



to give very careful consideration to the removal of the American alligator along these coastal parishes of Louisiana.

Just offhand, I would say that the boundary of the area that we are petitioning is from Highway 10 on the Mississippi line up to Interstate 12, from Interstate 12 into Baton Rouge, around the northern edge of the city limit of Baton Rouge to Highway 190, west on Highway 190 to Ragley, Louisiana, west on Louisiana Highway 12 from Ragley to the Calcasieu Parish line. All of the parishes or portions of the parishes should of that line are being asked to be removed from the endangered and threatened category in Louisiana. We feel that we do have supportive data to justify this request. We have just completed our aerial inventory of the coastal marshes. We look like we have got about 300,000 alligators in South Louisiana, and certainly they should be removed in that area so that we can move forward with a controlled harvest of 'gators in South Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ensminger.



Mr. Duffy.

MR. PETER DUFFY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, Mr. Angelle, Director, I have got a matter that I would like for the Commission to consider this afternoon, involving a part of the Saline Game Management Area.

Recently I have been in litigation to determine whether or not the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission had the right to physically possess a certain portion of this area that had been acquired back in 1964. The litigation involved someone who had actual physical possession of approximately 12 acres.

At the time the litigation was instituted by the actual possessor of the tract of land and also shortly thereafter they had a former verbal lease from the claim possessor the right to grow certain crops, a soybean crop of about 5-1/2 to seven acres. That crop of course has been growing during the course of our litigating the matter in state court.

Approximately 30 days ago -- well, actually more than that, about 60 days ago, in



June -- I had obtained a judgment upholding the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, our right as possessing the land, and this judgment became final approximately 30 days ago.

However, the party who litigated the matter with us still has the right to take what is called a devolutive appeal, not a suspensive appeal, from the judgment that has been rendered. I have been contacted by the individual who is now leasing verbally this land for a crop of soybeans, and he wanted to know basically what the Commission would be doing with respect to the crop.

In checking the law I have learned that although the crop goes with the owner of the land, a third party who plants that crop on the land is entitled to reimbursement of expenses including seed and labor and also if his service are used to harvest the crop he would be entitled to reimbursement of those expenses.

There are actually three alternatives that this Commission has with respect to this crop. The crop is due to be harvested I understand in



approximately 60 days provided the area gets rain. If the area doesn't get any rain, the crop is going to be lost.

The alternatives that I am told from a purely physical point of view of farming is that he could possibly take the crop now for alfalfa or hay value, but again this would be lost in the event that there was rain. We could permit the individual to let the crop grow and harvest it within 60 days and enter into a verbal lease with him just as the prior possessor did with the standard conditions that I think exist with respect to tenant farming. The third alternative would be to let the crop grow and harvest it ourselves and pay him back the expenses and all that he has incurred up until the present.

In any event, this individual does have a claim against the Commission at this point for the expenses that he has in this crop, the determination of the amount of which I am in no position to advise the Commission. This could be a litigated claim in which we could find ourselves back in the same court to determine how much that



is. We could, as I mentioned before, cut the crop now but we would still have to pay him his expenses.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who do you recommend, Mr. Duffy?

MR. DUFFY: I think that probably the best position that we would be in from the point of view of harvesting the crop would be our best position, and I think the problem we have, though, of course is that our Commission employees are not in a position to do just that. This man would be able to do it himself, so I would suggest probably we enter into a verbal lease with him. The crops were actually planted while there was a dispute as to the actual right of possession of the land in question and to that extent I think this particular farmer probably is in good faith. He assumed that the person occupying the land physically would ultimately be found to be the title owner of the land. Of course, he finds himself that that is not so, certainly on the trial level, and although a suspensive appeal hasn't been taken by the losing litigant, he still has a right to do that. He may take an appeal, but it



will be a devolutive appeal, which simply means that the judgment rendered by us can be executed, namely, we have the right, anybody that is occupying the land to get them evicted from the land, and if they don't do it voluntarily we have to use a judicial process to do that.

Of the alternatives, since the law is perfectly clear in saying that this individual is entitled to his expenses, and because of the amount of the acreage involved, and because right now it is a viable crop that can be harvested and maybe should be harvested in view of the circumstances, maybe the best alternative would be to permit the crop to grow and harvest it and enter into a verbal lease with him with the most favorable conditions that can be arrived at for the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are only talking about what, a couple of hundred dollars at the most?

MR. DUFFY: I am not that familiar but the acreage involved is not a great deal and maybe Marc could --

MR. DUPUY: Five acres?



MR. DUFFY: It is about 5-1/2 to seven acres, I am not sure. The whole acreage that we are involved in in litigation was 12, and it is about five acres that he has actually got under farming.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are talking about assuming that he does make a good soybean crop.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, it looks to me like the man entered into a -- planted his crop in good faith and he now finds himself in a position where there is a change of ownership, but our ownership is not yet final in view of the fact that the decree of the district court is not yet final. A devolutive appeal could still be taken.

I think it would be in good faith and fairness on our part and a practical matter, as a matter of fact, to simply enter into a verbal agreement with him with the same terms, let's say not less than a quarter of his crop, and let him harvest it, because we are talking about five acres of beans, if he makes 30 bushels on five acres, 150 bushels at \$6 is \$900 of total beans, and a quarter of the crop is a little over \$200.



We are not talking about very much money involved in it. I think that is the practical solution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you make a motion to that effect?

MR. DUPUY: Yes, I will make the motion.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Jones.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Thank you, Peter.

MR. DUFFY: Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other business to come before the Commission?

MR. LUTTRELL: I have.

THE CHAIRMAN: Put it on me!

MR. LUTTRELL: All right. Up in my area there are two lakes, old established duck-hunting lakes -- back on this duck hunting question -- in which people have for the past 15, 20, 30 years had blinds, floating blinds that they attach to



pipes and so forth. Now it has come to their attention just this year for the first time that Wildlife and Fisheries owns that land out to the middle of those lakes, those streams, but the middle of those streams has not been established, and that they are going to have to move their blinds.

My motion is this: there are just certain areas like along the coast where Jerry hunts and where I hunt and other places, where it is impossible to move a blind in the night with all your decoys or in the morning and then pick them up in the evening and move them out, so you are just putting people out of business.

I move this, I move that the old established duck blinds on Saline and Larto Lakes be permitted to remain as situated until such time as the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission establish and mark the boundaries of their property.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Jones.



All in favor say aye.

MR. LUTTRELL: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

MR. THOMPSON: I abstain.

THE CHAIRMAN: One abstention.

MR. LUTTRELL: That's one and one.

Gentlemen, let me discuss this. All I am doing is this, gentlemen. There is no established line of what is our property and what is not our property.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. I am sorry. Let me call for a roll call vote.

MR. LUTTRELL: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: No.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Abstain.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dupuy.

MR. DUPUY: I will vote yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lapeyre.

MR. LAPEYRE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe the yesses have it. We have one no, two yesses and one



abstention.

MR. LUTTRELL: Where's Don Wille?

THE CHAIRMAN: And the Chair will vote yes. So ordered.

MR. DUPUY: Just for one year?

THE CHAIRMAN: One year.

MR. LUTTRELL: That's right, until we have established --

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other business before the Commission?

MR. TED O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman, since we have a lot of trappers, maybe we ought to tell them what happened in Ohio with this leg-hold trap business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. O'NEIL: Gentlemen of the Commission, some of you may know that Ohio is the second-rated state in trapping in the United States; Louisiana of course is the first. The legislature there turned down an anti-leg-hold trap law that the ecologists or the nut-type people tried to put across. So that group decided on a referendum. They decided they would go to the people and get



up a referendum; there are 14 states in the Union that can do this, can bypass the legislature and come up with a referendum to a constitutional amendment and put it back in the legislature and win out.

So there are ten million voters in that state, in Ohio, and so this group hired every student they could this summer, all the college students, and they gave them so much a head to go out and get names on a paper to put in a referendum, and they have had to get 307,000 names to win. They saw they were going to fail. They came up with, at the last minute -- they had until August 7 to do it -- and they saw they had only 235,000 names, and so the fur interests in the State of Ohio, the Game Commission, were putting up a terrible fight. It took all their time for two months, took every bit of the whole Game Commission's time to fight this group.

So no one won. The people had a judge let them pull down and say you can stay where you are this year with your 235,000 names and you can come back next year and add to that amount of names.



Well, I asked the people in the Game Commission there wouldn't they pass or wouldn't their legislature come up and pass a law saying you could not get on the side of the other states, other than being on the side of the 14. They said no, we have got to go, for some reason or other, got to go and beat them next year. We have got to go because they are still in the running.

Now our state, as I understand it, is a state that they can't bypass the legislature here and I am glad of it. There are ten million voters there. How many do we have, about four or five? There are four or five million here I think.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: About two million.

MR. O'NEIL: Two million. Well, that's a lot bigger state and they almost did it. However, if they could win in Ohio and ban the leg-hold trap in Ohio they would probably try us next. I know the trappers and the game commission would all be together against them to try to hold us where we are in our trapping business.

MR. LUTTRELL: Ted, I would like to add something I think will help that out. At a recent



meeting of the Rapides Parish Police Jury, a group came before the jury and succeeded in having a committee appointed to come before the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and ask that we outlaw trapping in Rapides Parish.

Now, in case that they fail to get what they need here, they are instructed to go to the legislature with it, so it is closer than you think it is. I don't think the committee will come here. I did what I did on the duck season, but I had a little bit better luck I believe than I did on the duck season!

MR. O'NEIL: Mr. Luttrell, we find in some areas of this state and a lot of areas of Mississippi where the fox hunters have joined the anti-trapping people, and it is very dangerous for the fox hunters, because that same group won't allow the fox hunters to chase the fox and the fallow deer either, they will be on them.

MR. LUTTRELL: This was a group of fox hunters and quail hunters, and they did succeed in getting the motion through and there was a committee appointed.



MR. O'NEIL: I can't see how the quail hunters, the fox trapping and the cat trapping are going to help the quail hunter, and I have hunted quail all my life and I have never had a dog caught yet. I just don't see how they can help, but they will try. I believe they will try.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ted.

Any other business before the Commission this afternoon?

Burt, I wish you would comment about these gentlemen in the back.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, I had learned this morning that we were to have a group of crab fishermen and shrimpers here today. Are they here this afternoon? How many?

O. K. According to rules and regulations as established by the legislature, this Commission is not in a position to take any formal action on whatever your request may be today. However, what they would like to do, and the Chairman has authorized me to say this, they would like to hear from one of you people representing the crab fishermen and one representing the



fishing industry for five or six or eight or ten minutes apiece so they can be better acquainted with your problem and then put it on the agenda for the September meeting.

Are you in a position to do this today, one of you representing each group, to be able to very briefly provide the Commission with some information along those lines so that we can put that on the agenda for the September meeting? Very briefly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Captain Robertson was outside, Burt, so you might restate that so he will know what you are talking about.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Captain, the Chairman has asked that whoever represents the crab fishermen today and whoever represents the shrimpers today be given from five to eight minutes very briefly, very briefly, to inform the Commission members of the problem so that they can put that on the agenda for the next meeting. Then instead of hearing from 15 or 20 people, somebody representing each group will acquaint themselves with the problem and then they themselves can, you know,



further discuss with our staff how it can better be resolved and very, very truthfully I think it will have to be resolved in the legislature and not at this Commission table, but they would like to hear what your problem is so if they can be of some assistance to both groups, you know they want to be able to help both groups.

CAPTAIN ROBERTSON: May I speak, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: Captain Robertson, please do.

CAPTAIN ROBERTSON: Dr. St. Amant just explained to me that a letter of request to the Director, Chairman and himself would be in order to present these problems at the next meeting, that it would give you time to look these problems over and since some of this is already in litigation they will have a better perspective of the situation.

Now I can very briefly tell you this, that there is a very big problem with crab traps obstructing some of the navigational streams and getting in the way of the shrimp trawlers, and the major problem is a misunderstanding among the



people. We need regulations and of course we know that you people are not in a position to make those regulations. We are aware of that, but we know that you can make recommendations that will assist in making these regulations.

That is really all I can say at this time, you see. Now if someone else says something, well, that is all right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Captain Robertson. Did you want to say something, Marc?

MR. DUPUY: Yes. Captain Robertson, why is it that the Wild Life and Fisheries is not in a position to make the regulations? Is this regarding purely navigational problems?

CAPTAIN ROBERTSON: Yes, sir. This is going to be an act of the legislature for the numbering system. These crab traps should be numbered to be identified so that the person responsible for distributing them in a careless manner can be charged or brought before the bar of justice.

MR. DUPUY: All right, sir. Could we hear from Dr. St. Amant on this?



DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the crab trap problem is one that we are going to have to face or the legislature is going to have to face. At the present time there is no legislation dealing with crab traps. There is no way to register them, to tag them, to license them. The only license necessary is a commercial fishing license if the crab fisherman sells his catch. If he is a recreational fisherman, he doesn't even need that.

Some system is needed to identify the traps, perhaps to limit the number of traps per person, to perhaps have some type of license associated with crab fishing, and then to give the Commission the right to set regulations, either seasons or some ways that these traps will be marked or buoyed. The problem gets quite complex when they are fished around the clock at night. Many of these things are not identifiable at night.

The traps were brought in here from areas where this was really not a problem. They came in from the Chesapeake Bay area where there is not any shrimp trawling or any amount of shrimp



trawling, so our navigational problems are quite different.

I have recommended that Mr. Schafer contact all these states. Before we have the next meeting we will get whatever laws and/or regulations exist in the other states where crab traps are used and we will have this information available when it is discussed at the meeting. I think you are going to find that there is going to be a lot of pros and cons to this and it could be one of the tougher problems we have had to solve in this Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to say this to the shrimpers and the crab fishermen. It is a shame that you can't get together and work your own problems out, because what you are going to get out of this thing is more regulations, more laws, more licenses you are going to have to buy, and more aggravation out of the enforcement people. The sooner you get together yourselves and work it out among yourselves, quit fighting and work together, it will be better for all of you in the long run. If you keep pushing this thing, you



are going both to wind up with stricter regulations to live under, more licenses to buy, more laws to abide by, and more people meddling in your business. We all know that we have got more bureaucracies now than we can almost live with, and what you are doing here is asking for more. If you want it, I will help you get it.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. LEE MOTT: I am from Little Caillou. We have a group of fishermen here, I mean I have got pictures that can show you what kind of grievance they have with these crab traps. We have been trying and it looked like our last meeting was misinterpreted by the crab fishermen. We had recommended they put their cages 250 feet apart on the line. In other words, the line established within 500 feet of that which would give these people a chance to operate, and it looked like they misunderstood and they wanted instead of putting them further apart they put them a little bit closer.

Mr. Edward LeBoeuf over here, he's got four boats, and one of his boats is under



litigation right now. He had to post a \$5,000 bond for his boys. He has got four boats that is tied up with damage waiting to go in the drydock, and the position of the man is this, that he go back trawling, they catch another trap in his trawl, he is going to have to come post another \$5,000 and he can't afford that.

I have checked with the Coast Guard when we first started with this organization and the Commander told me it is a hazard to any navigation and anybody that present any hazards is responsible but that they would rather the state agency be empowered, you know, to handle the situation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is Mr. LeBoeuf? What is this \$5,000 business you have got to post? What is that all about?

MR. MOTT: His boy got charged with stealing \$1,400 worth of cages on a 37-foot boat and that's 233 cages, and I don't see where you can put them on his boat! On Little Caillou we have a boat by name of MISS DODGE that has approximately 20 by 30 foot work space deck and Mr. Trahan told me there ain't no way he can put



them unless he take all his rigging off.

THE CHAIRMAN: What's the name of that boat?

MR. MOTT: The boat that --

THE CHAIRMAN: The big boat that you mentioned.

MR. MOTT: The MISS DODGE and that's 78-foot and he has got a tremendous work deck in the back and to stack 233 crab traps he would have to take his rigging off.

THE CHAIRMAN: He might make three or four trips, don't you reckon?

MR. MOTT: Well, he could carry them all in one trip but he would have to take his rigging to stack them on, and if you would like to look at it, we have some pictures here of damages.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have any crab people here?

MR. MOTT: No, they didn't want to show up.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it's kind of one way. But I am saying this, you ought to talk to the crab people and work it out among yourselves.



Have another meeting. All you are going to get out of this thing, like I said a while ago, is more laws, more licenses and more damned bureaucracy. We have got enough of that now.

MR. MOTT: Well, from my understanding, if this here is pushed too hard we won't only have the Coast Guard, we will have the darned Corps of Engineers more on our back, because then they are going to have to have permits to put these out in the bays, too.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: How about the National Guard?

MR. MOTT: Well, they might need the National Guard before all this! (Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Has anybody got anything else to say?

MR. MOTT: And in Terrebonne Parish it is just about yea-far from that right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I really wish you guys could get together and work this thing out and get you a working solution, which is the best for all of you, believe me.

I will entertain a motion to adjourn.



MR. DUPUY: I move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I have a second?

MR. THOMPSON: You have got it.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

. . . . Thereupon, at 3:45
o'clock p.m., Tuesday,
August 31, 1976, the meeting
was adjourned. . . .

Helen R. Dietrich,
Reporter.



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